

Public Hearing Testimony

Raised Bill 5458

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SAFETY DEVICES AT CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS

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Dear Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee:

As a pediatrician, I urge you to pass Raised Bill 5458 that would enable towns to install red light cameras.

Multiple municipalities in the US successfully use intersection safety cameras.

See http://www.iihs.org/laws/auto_enforce_cities.aspx

There is strong evidence that they are highly effective in deterring dangerous motorist behavior; in several studies they have been shown to reduce fatal red light running and non-fatal crashes:

<http://www.iihs.org/news/rss/pr020111.html>

<http://tti.tamu.edu/2011/08/01/safety-benefits-of-red-light-cameras/>

A recent study demonstrated that violations dramatically *increased* after cameras were removed from intersections in Houston. <http://www.khou.com/news/local/HPD-Red-light-runners-on-the-rise-without-cameras-115071119.html>

While yellow light timing can reduce red light running by a factor of 36%, the additional use of RLCs reduce it 96%. <http://www.iihs.org/research/qanda/rlr.html>

It is well settled law that a municipality's use of Intersection safety cameras does not violate the Fourth Amendment and that people do not have an

expectation of privacy when in a motor vehicle because they are visible, on public roads, and subject to government regulation and controls. See *California v. Carney*, 471 U.S. 386, 391-92 (1985).

It seems that this year's version of the bill built in affirmative defenses for a funeral processions and for emergency vehicles. It would make sense to include these defenses, as well as those for right hand turn on red after coming to a full stop, in any future legislation, as well as to use the program in Nassau County on Long Island as a blueprint:<http://www.courant.com/news/politics/hc-lender-column-redlights-li-0219-20120218,0,3344493,full.column>

I am heartened to see that there is legislative language that would require a municipality to submit to the Transportation Committee an evaluation of its intersection safety camera program with respect to the numbers of summons issued within 12 months of its implementation. As one who tries to practice evidence-based medicine, I think this mechanism would allow for a transparent evaluation of this program. I would also encourage the Committee to consider adding language to this bill that would allow for an evaluation of crash reduction at intersections before and after intersection safety cameras are installed.

Finally, as a physician, I believe the human cost of red light running is too often ignored in the debate over the use of intersection safety cameras, as evidenced by recent cases in Connecticut:

A 14 year-old New Haven girl

http://nhregister.com/articles/2011/04/18/news/new_haven/doc4dac6ba4e9f9b065610449.txt)

Two New Haven police officers

<http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/rounduppp/>

<http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2011/09/13/blotter/doc4e6fd42ef0ce6736143841.txt>

A woman and her dog had to be extricated from a crash from a Red Light

runner who crashed into a market in New Haven:

[http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/woman
rescued after co-op crash/](http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/woman_rescued_after_co-op_crash/)

A woman in Bridgeport was sent to the hospital due to a crash from a red light runner:[http://www.ctpost.com/policereports/article/Car-collides-
with-bus-in-Bridgeport-2688108.php](http://www.ctpost.com/policereports/article/Car-collides-with-bus-in-Bridgeport-2688108.php)

Three deaths from red light running:

[http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/hartford_cty/push-for-red-light-
cameras-in-hartford](http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/hartford_cty/push-for-red-light-cameras-in-hartford)

Thank you for your consideration.

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